



Providence Post



JANUARY 2025

Inspiration for the New Year



**FROM OUR
PASTOR**

The New Year brings the opportunity for new possibilities and a fresh start—a time to let go of the old baggage of the previous year and set new intentions for the year before us.

Here are some inspirational quotes from scripture and voices from the Church throughout the ages to inspire you at the beginning of this new year:

“Glory to God in highest heaven,
Who unto man His Son hath given;
While angels sing with tender mirth,
A glad new year to all the earth.”

—Martin Luther

“Love is a fruit in season at all times, and within the reach of every hand.”

—Mother Teresa

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” —1 Peter 1:3

“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” —Lamentations 3:22

“I wish, my brothers and sisters, that during this year you may live nearer to Christ than you have ever done before. Depend on it, it is when we think much of Christ that we think little of ourselves, little of our troubles, and little of the doubts and fears that surround us.” —Charles Spurgeon

“If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!” —2 Corinthians 5:17

May the new year be filled with promise and many blessings from God!

Pastor Hilary



Session Highlights

By Barb Hazlett

(Note: The following highlights are taken from the minutes of the Monday, December 16, 2024, regular Session meeting.)

Clerk’s Report: Sixty communicants received communion on Sunday, December 1.

Treasurer’s Report: The treasurer’s report was reviewed and discussed.

Huntingdon Presbytery Report: The next meeting of Huntingdon Presbytery will be held on Saturday, January 25, 2025, 9:30 am, at the State College Presbyterian Church (in person) and by Zoom (remote). Rick Herbster volunteered to be our Session representative.

Nominating Committee Report: The committee was thanked for their work.

Moderator’s Report: Pastor Hilary discussed the church activities and outside activities that she has been a part of over the last month.

Our pastor will be taking vacation time from Saturday, February 8, through Saturday, February 15, 2025. Allen Gibboney will preach on Sunday, February 9. Pastor Livingston will also be off on Thursday, December 26, Monday and Tuesday, December 30 and 31, and Thursday, January 2.

Installation of new Session members has been set for Sunday, January 12, 2025.

Session Team Reports (Chair)

Finance & Stewardship (Sue Whitsel): The 2024 per capita amount has been established at \$39.24. For the period ending on November 30, 2024, there was \$3,757.06 paid into the per capita fund, up from \$3,668.90 on November 30, 2023. The Presbytery of Huntingdon, at its September 24

meeting, approved a per capita rate for 2025 of \$27.76 for the Presbytery, \$2.40 for the Synod of the Trinity, and \$10.84 for the General Assembly for a total of \$41.00 per member. This represents a 4.5% increase from the 2024 per capita rate.

The 2025 budget was approved by Session and was presented to the congregation at our annual meeting on Sunday, November 24, 2024.

The Monthly Financial Summary is shown below:

	Through 11/30/24	Through 11/30/23
Congregational Giving	\$174,927	\$171,431
Building Rental Income(*)	16,669	1,267
Special Offerings	14,373	11,781
=====		
Total Income	\$205,969	\$184,479
Total Expenses	\$207,201	\$207,780
=====		
Surplus (Shortfall)	\$ 1,232	\$ 23,301

(*) Reflects giving to the “Organ Fund”

Congregational Care (Gail Irwin): The cards/flowers/transportation schedule was updated for the months of December and January. A volunteer from the congregation stepped forward to help with transportation.

Home communion was delivered to 13 individuals by Pastor Hillary and members of the committee. The next cycle of communion/visitation is scheduled for February 2025.

Birthday cards and get-well cards were prepared by our team members for December. Names for the congregation card shower were designated.

A prayer shawl and food were delivered to a congregant recovering from illness. A donation was made to the prayer shawl ministry.

Advent dinner meals were delivered to homebound congregants by our team after the Advent Dinner on December 8.

The holiday cookie trays and mini treat bags will be assembled on Sunday, December 15, and distributed to select congregants. We appreciate the great response from all our cookie bakers who volunteered to help with this project.

The Angel Tree gifts donated by our congregation

will be delivered to the social director at the Presbyterian Village at Hollidaysburg on Sunday, December 15. Again, we are thankful for the great response from our generous congregation.

Congregational Fellowship (Glenn Nelson): Sixty-four people were served at our Advent Dinner on Sunday, December 8. Our next coffee fellowship will be held on Sunday, January 5, 2025—cheese and crackers will be served.

Mission (Judy Hartzell) : The Christmas Joy Offering ends with the Sunday, December 22, morning worship service.

For our Soup on Saturday December 21, event leftovers from the Advent Dinner and soups will be served. Allen Gibboney's woodwind ensemble will provide special music during the lunch. Providence Church youth will be there to serve hot chocolate and decorate cookies for all guests.

December Giving Report: The Door - \$250, Lexington Clubhouse - \$250. Mission Central Hub and the Altoona Warming Center at Overflow Church are new recipients and final giving figures for these two missions are not yet available.

Altoona Food Bank donations for January 2025 are soups and crackers. For our Providence Food Pantry donations include any nonperishable food and personal care items. Please, no glass containers!

Outreach (Jane Yerty): Visitor's bags have been prepared and will be used during Advent. Peggy Horner and Terri Kokemuller will address Worship team and ushers on where these bags are stored and encourage their use. Jennifer Braun and Terri are working on stick-on labels for the visitor's bags. We will evaluate this in February to see how these bags are working and adjust their use as needed.

The Team was updated on a Toy Giveaway and encouraged to participation. They used Outreach budget money for a banner and flyers to be placed in Mountain Lion backpacks. The team also agreed to using magnets/business cards/postcards to hand out to Toy Giveaway attendees to provide knowledge of services offered by the church and how to reach us.

The Treese family wants to donate some hoodies in memory of Lundy. They had a question about

how this would be done. Pastor Livingston will keep some hoodies here at the church in case the need arises.

Property (Geoff Geesey): The Altoona Water Authority will visit our church in February to check our piping to see if they are lead-based. This is part of a city-wide water line survey.

The sign-up sheet for Lights and Locks in 2025 has been posted in the Fellowship Hall.

We received a check from the insurance company for repairs to our garage building. Geoff will handle getting a contractor to start this work.

Worship (Rick Herbster): Acolytes, liturgists and ushers are set for December.

Rick thanked everyone who helped decorate the church for Advent.

Pastor Livingston checked with the participants and there are no expenses to be paid relating to her installation service.

The poinsettia orders are in and the delivery date has been scheduled for Monday, December 23. Several members of our team volunteered to help with the placement of these flowers.

All of the Advent readers have been assigned except for the Christmas Eve service; Rick will find readers for this service.

The Worship team discussed winter cancellations. Pastor Hilary will contact Rick and Barb Hazlett and the three of them will make a decision on weather cancellations. Kimberly will be contacted to send out an email and place a notice on our web page. The team will make phone contacts to those who do not have email access. This procedure will be printed in our worship bulletins and newsletter, and on our display screens in the sanctuary.

Advent Calendar:

December 8: Second Sunday of Advent, Brass Quartet

December 15: Third Sunday of Advent, Youth Participation

December 22: Fourth Sunday of Advent,

December 29: A service of stories and songs

On Sunday, December 22, we will have an additional service at 2:00 pm. It will be a “Blue Christmas, Longest Night” program to help those who are having a difficult time during the Christmas season.

Our Christmas Eve service will begin with a musical prelude starting at 6:00 pm. The service itself will begin at 6:30 pm. Ushers are in place to pass out the small candles—these candles will be lit during the final hymn (“Silent Night”) as is our tradition. Two acolytes will be needed to light the large window candles on the 24th and 25th Street sides of the sanctuary. Our choir will process and recess to hymns. The Waldman family will light the Christ Candle. There will be two people plus the liturgist for the various readings. The offering taken during the service will go to the Christmas Joy Offering.

Communion dates for 2025 will continue to be on the first Sunday of each month with an additional communion service that will be held on Maundy Thursday, April 17, 2025.

Old Business: The Audio/Video team has ordered a new video camera with remote panning capability to enhance our recorded services. There is still a question about WiFi signal strength in our church basement—Bob Hollingsworth will investigate.

The television is now hooked up in the Sunday school room downstairs.

Newsletter Deadlines for 2025

Issue	Deadline
February 2025	Tuesday, January 14, 2025
March	Tuesday, February 18
April	Tuesday, March 18
May	Tuesday, April 22
June	Tuesday, May20
July/August	Tuesday, June 17
September	Tuesday, August 19
October	Tuesday, September 16
November	Tuesday, October 21
December	Tuesday, November 18
January 2026	Tuesday, December 16

Family Services January Donation Needs

Providence Presbyterian Church is collecting the following items for Family Services by the second Sunday in January. Items may be left on the designated shelves located in the 24th Street hallway adjacent to the Fellowship Hall no later than January 12. Thank you!

Category: Paper & Baby Products

- Paper towels
- Garbage bags
- Toilet paper
- Quart & gallon-sized zipper bags
- Baby soap, shampoo, lotion
- Diapers and pull-ups—all sizes
- Baby wipes
- Feminine hygiene products
- Facial tissues

Watch for a new donation category in the February newsletter!



Per Capita: Just a reminder that the Per Capita amount for 2025 is \$41.00 *per member*. This amount has increased slightly over last year’s figure. Please use the special [blue envelope](#) (the very first envelope) in your new box of offering envelopes to pay your per capita amount.

2025 Tithing Envelopes: New offering envelopes are ready for pickup. The boxes will be located on a table in the Fellowship Hall. They are arranged in alphabetical order and have your name on top of the box. If you can’t find a box with your name on it, please call Kimberly (814-944-7258), and she will have your envelopes ready on the next Sunday.

Lights and Locks: We are in need of volunteers to “Open & Lock-Up” the church each month next

year. There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall if you are able to help open and lock-up for one month in 2025!

Flower Calendar: If you would like to remember loved ones or honor a special event, please sign the *2025 Flower Calendar*, which is located in the 24th Street hallway adjacent to the Fellowship Hall. The cost is fifty dollars (\$50) for two vases.



Giving Your Best

Like the Magi, we can respond with our best gifts—our industry, our devotion, our very lives. We disciples are Christ’s tangible presence in the world. That same Child whose light brought such joy to the Magi now, through us, offers his mercy to every person.

Through us, every day, Christ feeds multitudes; he heals, teaches and guides countless people. Through individual volunteers and major institutions, through simple acts of kindness or worldwide coordinated efforts, the world can encounter, through the Christian community, the enduring, tangible presence of Christ.

—Michael Simone

JANUARY Birthdays

John Gallace	1
Mike McClain	2
Glenn Nelson Jr.	2
Jeannine Fagley	3
Dennis McGearry	5
Matt Judd	6
MaryAnne Hollingsworth	8
Ken Lynch	11
Jane Yerty	16
Sonya Zeigler	18
Abby Burchfield	22
Linda Hart	22
Paul R. Conway	27
Oakley Thompson	28
Trey Payne	29
Jack Camberg	30

Our congregation is reminded to sign the birthday cards that are located on one of the tables in the Fellowship Hall.



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